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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5339  
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RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 6546  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0160  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 6466  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC  
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RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
RUEHGH/AMCONSUL SHANGHAI 1136  
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SUBJECT: SEOUL - MEDIA REACTION

East Asia and Pacific: DPRK  
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"MODERATING PRESSURE ON N. KOREA IS THE KEY"

Senior Journalist Kim Young-hie opined in right-of-center JoongAng Ilbo (08/14): "(Current) International sanctions against North Korea are much more powerful and effective than any other sanctions in the past. ... North Korea's invitations of former President Clinton and Hyundai Group Chairwoman Hyun Jung-eun are related to this grave situation. ... What matters is moderating the intensity of sanctions. It is time to calculate accurately to what extent we should put pressure on North Korea in order to maximize the effects of sanctions and to bring the North back to the Six-Party Talks, while making the country deliver on its agreements. Otherwise, North Korea will become desperate - like a mouse chased by a cat - and resort to self-destructive acts, including nuclear and missile tests. Now that U.S. -North Korea relations have entered a new phase, the release of the Hyundai Asan employee may serve as a significant breakthrough in inter-Korean relations."

STEPHENS